

Members

Sen. Charles Meeks, Chairman
Sen. John Waterman
Sen. Greg Server
Sen. James Lewis
Sen. Timothy Skinner
Sen. Sam Smith
Rep. Tiny Adams, Vice-Chairperson
Rep. James Bottorff
Rep. Paul Robertson
Rep. Daniel Leonard
Rep. Marlin Stutzman
Rep. Dean Young



INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE ON LAKE AND WATER ISSUES

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: August 19, 2003
Meeting Time: 10:00 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington
St., Room 431
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 2

Members Present: Sen. Charles Meeks, Chairman; Sen. John Waterman; Sen. James Lewis; Sen. Sam Smith; Rep. Tiny Adams, Vice-Chairperson; Rep. James Bottorff; Rep. Daniel Leonard; Rep. Marlin Stutzman.

Members Absent: Sen. Greg Server; Sen. Timothy Skinner; Rep. Paul Robertson; Rep. Dean Young.

I. Call to Order

Senator Charles Meeks, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:12 A.M. The Chairman announced that he anticipated one more meeting in September. The Chairman then introduced Senator Robert Meeks, who gave a short synopsis of the history of the Lake Management Workgroup. The Chairman thanked Senator Meeks for his remarks,

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

and then asked the members of this Interim Committee to introduce themselves.

The Chairman then discussed the advantages of avoiding the duplication of work during this interim involving water shortage policy issues. The Chairman explained that this committee would no longer be studying these issues, but that they will be addressed by the Water Resources Study Committee chaired by Senator Weatherwax.

II. Law Enforcement Issues

The Chairman called upon Lt. Col. Jeff Wells, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Law Enforcement Division. Lt. Col. Wells explained the organization of the DNR Law Enforcement Division. He discussed the shortage of officers in this division and the plan to fill these vacancies in the near future. Mr. Wells also discussed the educational and enforcement responsibilities of the division. He pointed out that these responsibilities involve many hours addressing boating safety. Mr. Wells also explained the increase in fees which in turn has increased the revenue to the Law Enforcement Division, and provided more flexibility in educating boaters.

The Chairman then opened up the floor for Committee discussion.

The Committee discussed boating regulations and the public's lack of knowledge of those regulations, allocation of division resources, drowning investigation responsibility, and equipment allocation. The Committee then asked for recommendations from the Division on what needs to be addressed next session.

III. Review of 1999 Indiana Lake Management Workgroup Report

The Chairman introduced John Goss, Director of DNR, to review the 1999 Final Report of the Indiana Lake Management Workgroup. Mr. Goss gave an introduction and summary of the topics to be addressed by the people present to testify today.

The Chairman then asked the members of the former Lake Management Workgroup to introduce themselves. The members present introduced themselves and discussed the past work of the Lake Management Workgroup. The Workgroup members also discussed soil and water conservation and pollution, boating licensing and regulation, and lake management.

The Chairman then introduced Steve Lucas, Director of the NRC Commission/Hearings. Mr. Lucas summarized the legal background to the present laws, and then discussed the accomplishments of the Workgroup and goals contained in its report that have been realized.

The Committee then discussed the recent legislative changes to lake regulation, as well as the possibility of reviving the Lake Management Workgroup.

The Chairman then recognized Jim Ray, DNR Soil Conservation, to testify on the Workgroup report. Mr. Ray discussed the contents of the Workgroup report and the goals listed in the report that have been realized through legislation or other methods.

The Chairman asked that any issues that have not been addressed from the Workgroup report, or issues that DNR would wish to see move forward, be reduced to a written list and submitted during the next Committee meeting.

IV. Seawall Issues

The Chairman then introduced Jill Hoffman, DNR Biologist, for a presentation on seawalls. Ms. Hoffman gave a powerpoint presentation entitled "Seawalls On Indiana Public Freshwater Lakes". (Exhibit A)

The Committee discussed: the ecological aspects of an aesthetically pleasing seawall; conflict of jurisdiction over the shoreline between the United State Army Corps of Engineers, DNR, and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management; possible solutions to the retaining wall/seawall loophole; other states' approaches to this problem; and the conflict between the private rights of homeowners versus the public's rights involved with the state owned shorelines.

The Chairman asked that someone from DNR be prepared to clarify the shoreline jurisdiction question at the next meeting. The Chairman also asked that DNR have proposed legislation ready for the September meeting to address the seawall regulation problem.

VI. Select Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

The Chairman set the next meeting date for Tuesday, September 23, 2003 at 1:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:14 P.M.